

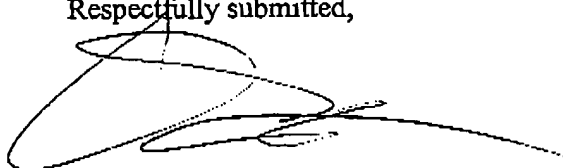
USSN 09/273,957

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone follow-up on January 7, 2003 in which the Examiner made suggestions as to formal amendments Applicants could make to put the claims in form for allowance. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. As a result, the case is now in form for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (650) 846-7544 if there are additional questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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USSN 09/273,957

APPENDIX A: Clean Version of Amended Claims

E 1 ~~1~~ ~~8~~ (AMENDED) A purified oxidase enzyme obtained from *Stachybotrys*, wherein said enzyme comprises at least one antigenic determinant in common with a phenol oxidizing enzyme naturally produced from *Stachybotrys parvispora* MUCL accession number 38996 as measured by an immunoprecipitation line by Ouchterlony technique.

E 2 ~~2~~ ~~9~~ (AMENDED) A purified oxidase enzyme obtained from *Stachybotrys*, wherein said enzyme comprises at least one antigenic determinant in common with a phenol oxidizing enzyme naturally produced from *Stachybotrys chartarum* MUCL accession number 38898 as measured by an immunoprecipitation line by Ouchterlony technique.

sub
E 3 ~~2~~ ~~13~~ (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 10 having pH optimum of 6.0 to 7.5, inclusive, as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20 degrees C with syringaldizing as substrate.

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E 4 ~~3~~ ~~14~~ (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 10 having a pH optimum of 7.0 to 9.0, inclusive, as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20 degrees C with 2,6-dimethoxyphenol as substrate.

E 5 ~~12~~ ~~64~~ ³ (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 10, wherein said colored compound is a porphyrin, a polyphenol, a carotenoid, an anthocyanin or a Maillard reaction product.

E 6 ~~13~~ ~~65~~ ⁴ (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 11, wherein said colored compound is at least one of a porphyrin, a polyphenol, a carotenoid, an anthocyanin or a Maillard reaction product.

USSN 09/273,957

APPENDIX B: Amended Claims with Markings to Show Changes

8. (AMENDED) A purified oxidase enzyme obtained from [*Stachybotris*] *Stachybotrys*, wherein said [phenol oxidizing] enzyme comprises at least one antigenic determinant in common with a phenol oxidizing enzyme naturally produced from *Stachybotrys parvispora* MUCL accession number 38996 as measured by an immunoprecipitation line by Ouchterlony technique.

9. (AMENDED) A purified oxidase enzyme obtained from *Stachybotrys*, wherein said [phenol oxidizing] enzyme comprises at least one antigenic determinant in common with a phenol oxidizing enzyme naturally produced from *Stachybotrys chartarum* MUCL accession number 38898 as measured by an immunoprecipitation line by Ouchterlony technique.

13. (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 10 having pH optimum of 6.0 to 7.5, inclusive, as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20 degrees C with [syringaldizing] syringaldizing as substrate.

14. (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 10 having a pH optimum of 7.0 to 9.0, inclusive, as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20 degrees C with [2,6-dimethoxypheonl] 2,6-dimethoxypheonol as substrate.

64. (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 10, wherein said colored compound is a porphyrin, a polyphenol, a carotenoid, an anthocyanin [ora maillard] or a Maillard reaction [compound] product.

65. (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 11, wherein said colored compound is at least one of a porphyrin, a polyphenol, a carotenoid, an anthocyanin [ora maillard] or a Maillard reaction [compound] product.

USSN 09/273,957

APPENDIX C: Clean Version of All Pending Claims

8. (AMENDED) A purified oxidase enzyme obtained from *Stachybotrys*, wherein said enzyme comprises at least one antigenic determinant in common with a phenol oxidizing enzyme naturally produced from *Stachybotrys parvispora* MUCL accession number 38996 as measured by an immunoprecipitation line by Ouchterlony technique.

9. (AMENDED) A purified oxidase enzyme obtained from *Stachybotrys*, wherein said enzyme comprises at least one antigenic determinant in common with a phenol oxidizing enzyme naturally produced from *Stachybotrys chartarum* MUCL accession number 38898 as measured by an immunoprecipitation line by Ouchterlony technique.

10. A purified oxidase enzyme having an apparent molecular weight of about 38 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and exhibiting an increase in apparent molecular weight after boiling, wherein said purified enzyme is obtained from *Stachybotrys parvispora* and is capable of modifying the color associated with a dye or colored compound.

11. A purified oxidase enzyme having an apparent molecular weight of about 30.9 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and exhibiting an increase in apparent molecular weight after boiling, wherein said purified enzyme is obtained from *Stachybotrys chartarum* and is capable of modifying the color associated with a dye or color compound.

12. The enzyme of claim 10 having a pH optimum of 5.0 to 7.0, inclusive as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20 degrees C with 2,2'-azino-bis (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonate (ABTS) as substrate.

13. (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 10 having pH optimum of 6.0 to 7.5, inclusive, as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20 degrees C with syringaldizing as substrate.

14. (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 10 having a pH optimum of 7.0 to 9.0, inclusive, as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20 degrees C with 2,6-dimethoxyphenol as substrate.

USSN 09/273,957

60. The enzyme of Claim 10, wherein the *Stachybotrys parvispora* has MUCL accession number 38996.

61. The enzyme of Claim 11, wherein the *Stachybotrys chartarum* has MUCL accession number 38898.

62. The enzyme of Claim 13, wherein the *Stachybotrys parvispora* has MUCL accession number 38996.

63. The enzyme of Claim 14, wherein the *Stachybotrys parvispora* has MUCL accession number 38996.

64. (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 10, wherein said colored compound is a porphyrin, a polyphenol, a carotenoid, an anthocyanin or a Maillard reaction product.

65. (AMENDED) The enzyme of claim 11, wherein said colored compound is at least one of a porphyrin, a polyphenol, a carotenoid, an anthocyanin or a Maillard reaction product.